

Lithuania's PM to Bush: 'Good faith' is not enough



PRUNSKIENE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The visiting prime minister of Lithuania criticized President Bush yesterday for doing nothing more than calling for "good faith" negotiations in her country's independence showdown with the Soviet Union.

"Simply making statements that there should be cooperation and urging Lithuania to sit down at the bargaining table is not sufficient at this time, when the Soviet Union is interfering in Lithuania's relationships with Western countries," Kazimiera Prunskiene said a day after meeting with Bush.

However, Prunskiene said it was too early to ask the United States to impose economic sanctions against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in an effort to prod him toward accepting Lithuanian independence.

She called for the United States to grant formal diplomatic recognition to Lithuania, saying that "would be a logical consequence" of the longstanding American position that it does not recognize the Soviet annexation of her country.

Latvia joins crowd, votes for independence

RIGA, U.S.S.R. (AP) — Latvian lawmakers voted for independence yesterday but plotted a more cautious break from the Soviet Union than neighboring Lithuania.

Latvians greeted the declaration of independence with tears, cheers and a chorus of the republic's national anthem.

The 138-0 parliamentary vote, 50 years after Moscow seized the three Baltic states on the Soviet's western border, put Latvia on a similar secessionist path with Lithuania and Estonia.

But, unlike Lithuania's independence declaration of March 11, the vote by Latvia's Supreme Soviet called for a gradual break with the

Soviet Union.

Fifty-seven anti-independence lawmakers refused to cast ballots.

After the vote was announced, Latvians inside and outside the hall broke into a chorus of "God Bless Latvia," the republic's traditional anthem. A cheering crowd showered emerging lawmakers with flowers.

The bill, proposed by the pro-independence Latvian People's Front that dominates the parliament, proclaimed the start of an unspecified period of transition to full independence. In the interim, it calls for negotiations with Moscow.

The neighboring republic of Estonia took a similar step March 30.